

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING

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RESOLUTION on INAPPROPRIATE CONSTRAINTS TO RESEARCH

Whereas the American Academy of Nursing (the Academy) is charged with providing leadership in shaping health care policy and practice that optimizes the well-being of the American people through the conduct and synthesis of scientific research; and

Whereas the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has launched an unprecedented review of approximately 190 research projects as a result of pressure from certain members of Congress and the Traditional Values Coalition; and

Whereas the stated focus of this review is to explain why the NIH is supporting some studies on topics that were described as unrelated to the nation's most important health concerns; and

Whereas the topics include studies on HIV transmission, sexual behavior, sexual orientation and behavioral health; and

Whereas some researchers have reported being encouraged to rephrase aspects of their research so as to be less controversial; and

Whereas this scrutiny is creating a chilling effect on the conduct, dissemination and funding of research vital to the public's health.

Therefore be it resolved that the American Academy of Nursing commits to join with the national community of scholars and organizations to express extreme concern over this development, and to inform and educate others regarding this threatening trend.

The Board of Directors
American Academy of Nursing
November 15, 2003

**Adopted during Annual Business Meeting of the American Academy of Nursing –
Saturday, November 15, 2003**